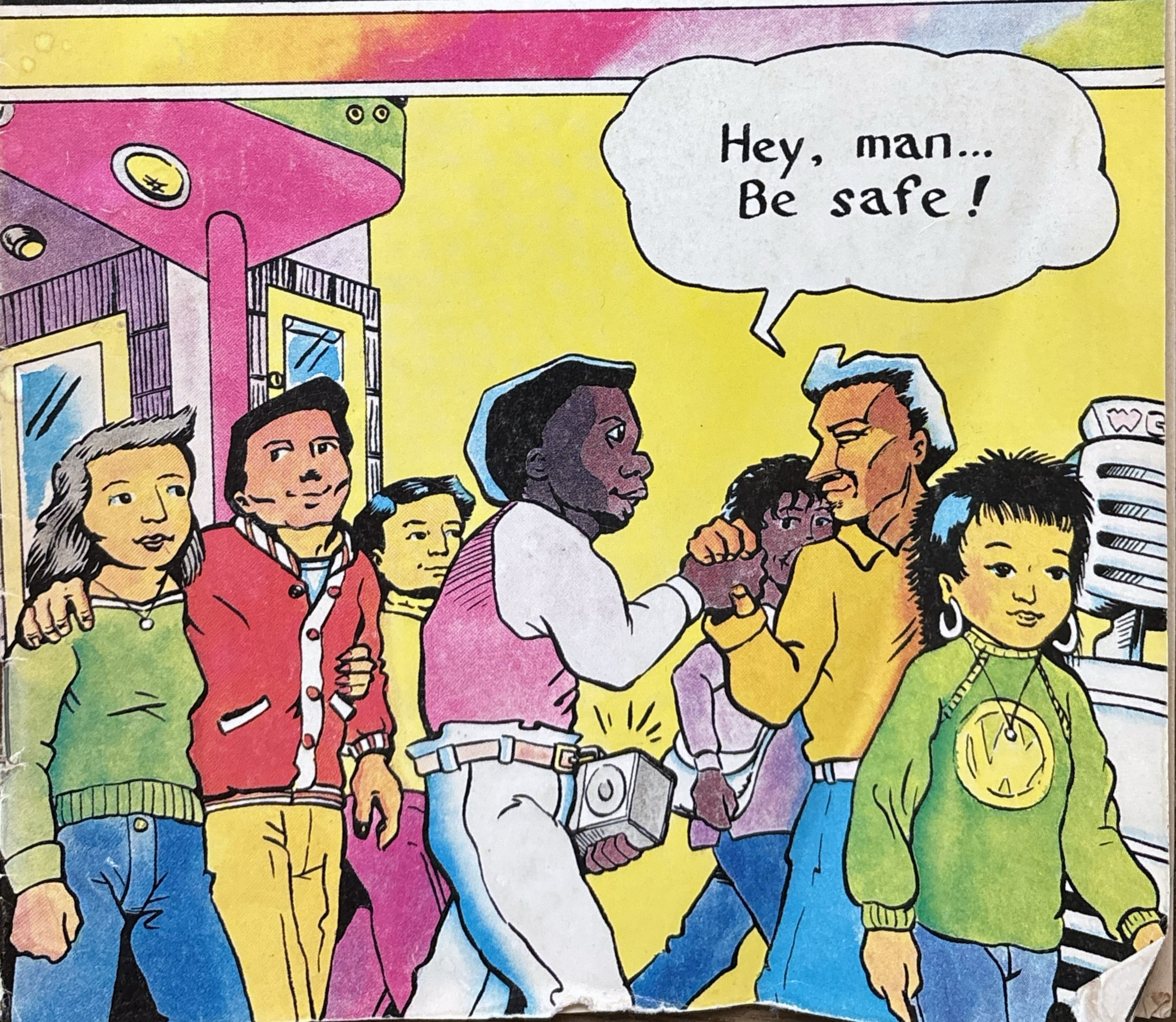
ONLY
25 cents

AIDS NEWS

P.O.C.A.A.N.


Hey, man...
Be safe!

VJ

Delores

Ms. Terry

Kenji

Mort

A LETTER TO OUR READERS

In the best of all possible worlds, you would not have to live with the fear of nuclear holocaust, deadly diseases, poverty, hatred or injustice. In the best of all possible worlds, there would always be bread on the table, love in our homes, and difference would be cause for celebration.

But we do not live in such a world. We are faced with many problems and the solutions are never easy nor simple.

AIDS affects all of our lives and will continue to do so into the next decade, either because we know someone who has it, or because we fear getting it ourselves. We have few weapons against the disease, but those we have are mighty: ***compassion, information,*** and ***education.***

This comic book is designed for you and your friends to get information about AIDS, to use in educating each other and the adults in your lives. It is crucial that you have the facts. Only you can decide for yourself what to do. We all need the ability to respond to this disease without hysteria and blaming, to work together to care for people with AIDS, and to protect ourselves and our loved ones from this fatal disease. We hope this book will help.

Be safe —

People of Color Against AIDS Network
Leadership Tomorrow

Many thanks are due:

-to P. Catlin Fullwood, Kazas Jones, Jeff Sakuma and Karen Hartfield of POCAAN, and Annette Cleaves, Mary Ann Ekman, Tina Narr, Bill Covington, Loralee Wenger, Howard S. Wright III and Elaine Ko of Leadership Tomorrow for guiding the creation of this comic.

-to the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce for creating the concept of community service for future leadership through the Leadership Tomorrow organization.

-to the American Friends Service Committee for its ongoing support which has made the work of POCAAN possible.

-to the Norcliffe Foundation, the Bishop Foundation, and Citicorp for providing the funding for the completion of this project.

-to the kids at Indian Heritage High and the Orion Center for taking the time to make this a better comic book.

-to Leonard Rifas, the cartoonist, without whom this book never would have happened.

Rosalba

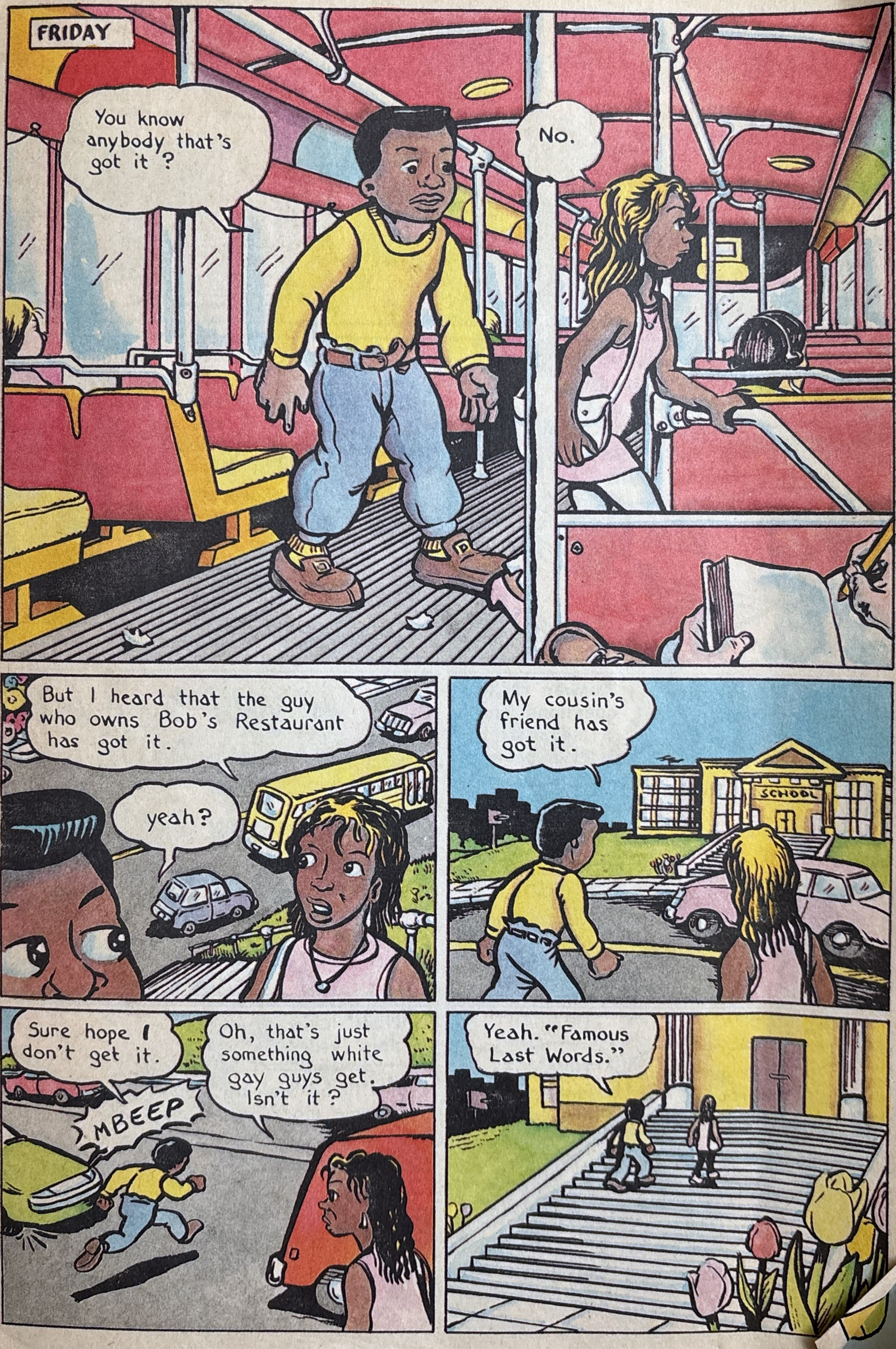
Chuy

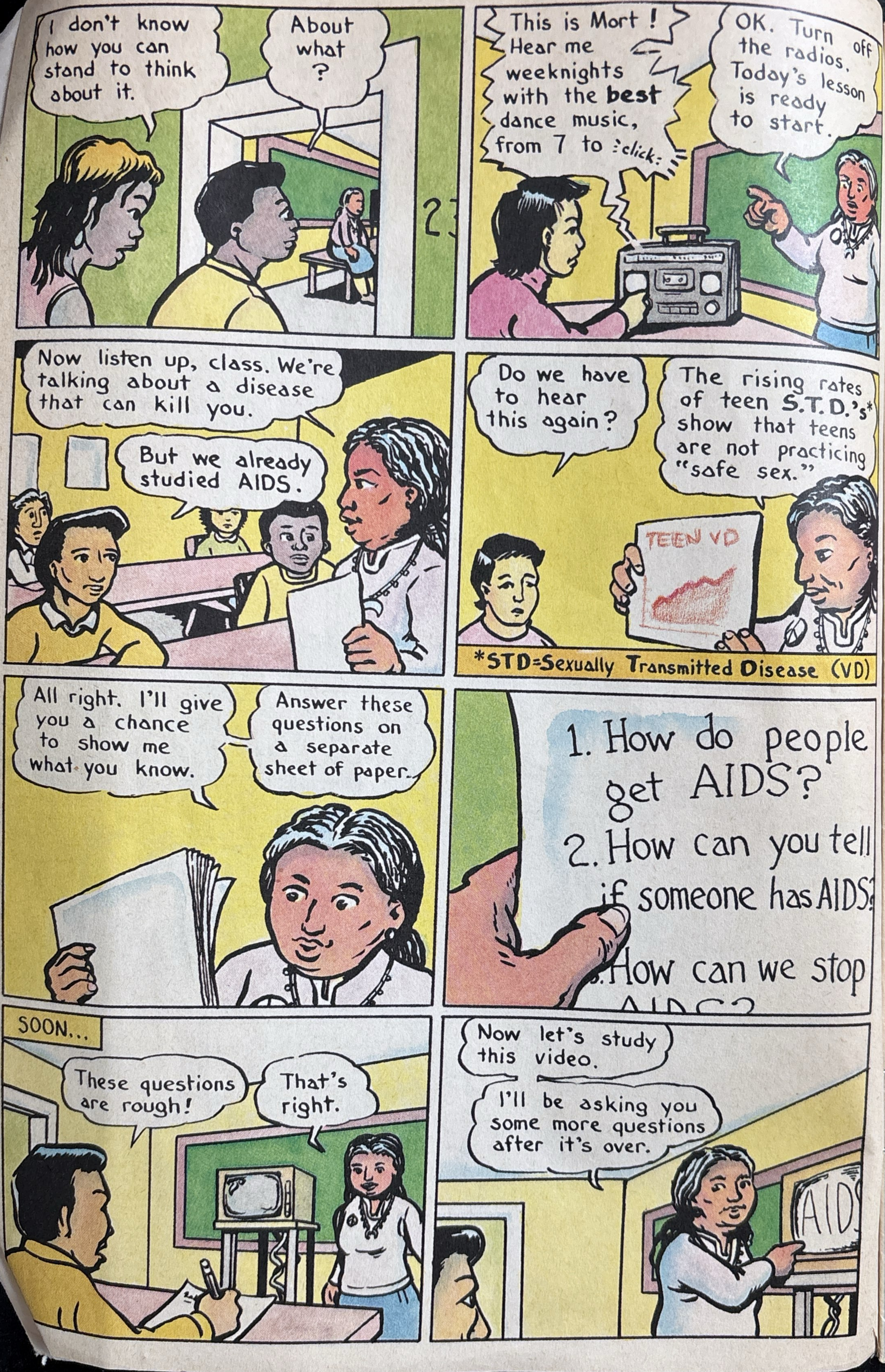
Kim

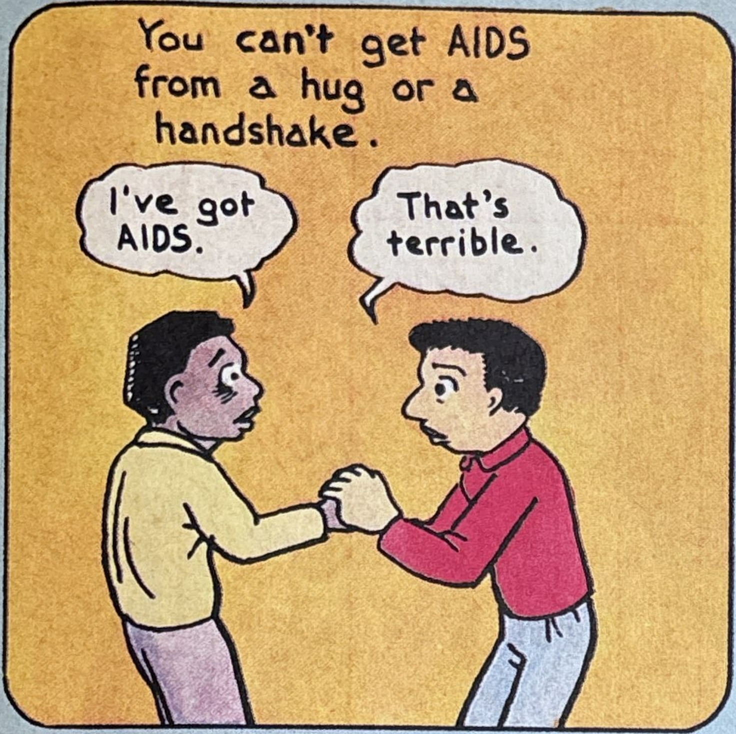
Kat

Jeff

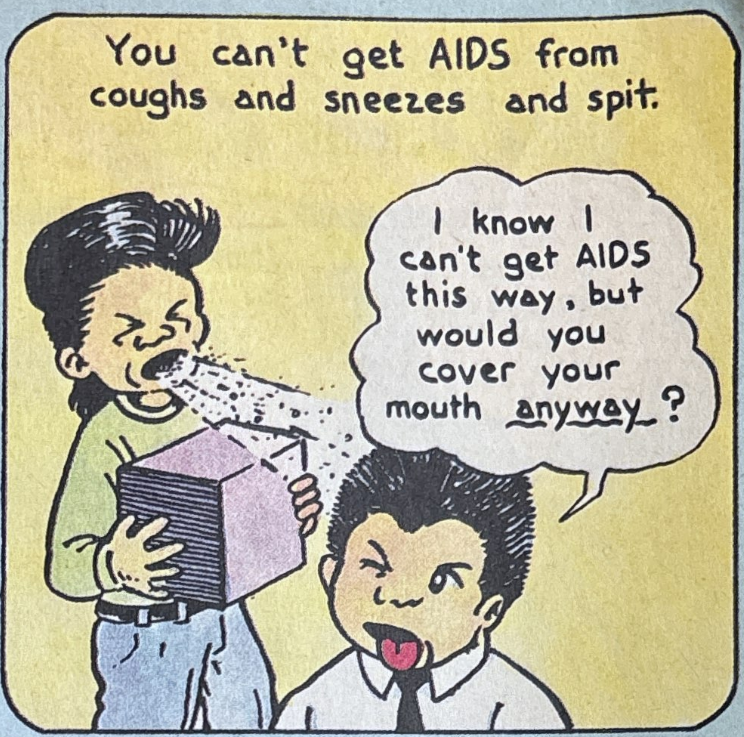
AIDS News is @ 1988 by People of Color Against AIDS Network (POCAAN). First printing: July, 1988. AIDS News was edited by P. Catlin Fullwood with members of POCAAN and Leadership Tomorrow. It was written and drawn by Leonard Rifas (of EduComics, box 45831, Seattle, WA 98145) and Mark Campos (who wrote and pencilled pages 8-9 and 12-13, and inked pages 3-5.) Coloring is by Michael Dowers. Additional artwork (on the inside back cover) is by Daniel Fernandez and Paula McCurtain. Advice on art and writing by Mizue Fujinuma. All characters in AIDS News are fictitious. Any resemblance to actual persons is a coincidence. People of Color Against AIDS Network is at 105-14th Street, Suite 2D, Seattle, WA 98122, (206) 322-7061.


FRIDAY
You know anybody that's got it ?
No.
But I heard that the guy who owns Bob's Restaurant has got it.
yeah?
My cousin's friend has got it.
SCHOOL
Sure hope I don't get it.
Oh, that's just something white gay guys get. Isn't it ?
MBEEP
Yeah. "Famous Last Words."

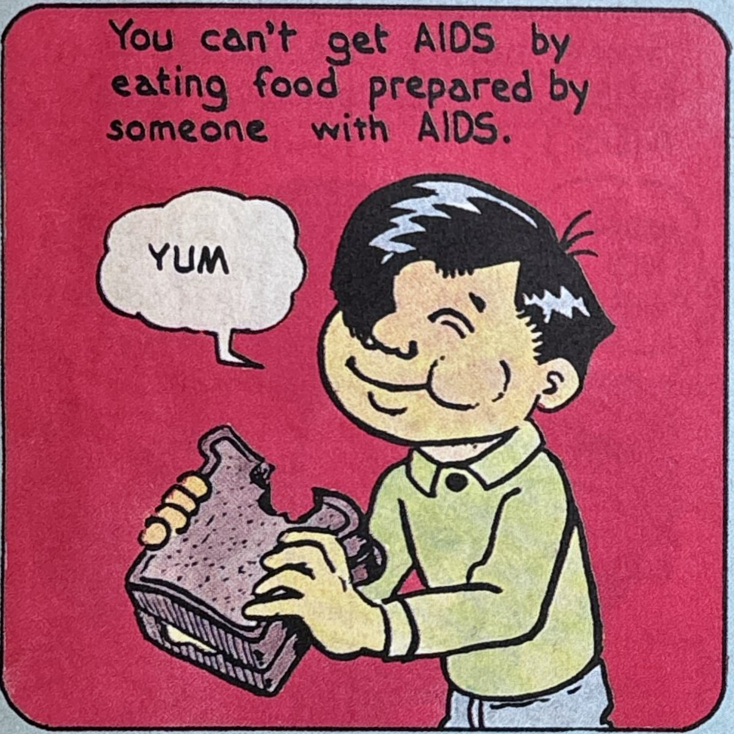

I don't know how you can stand to think about it.
About what?
23
This is Mort! Hear me weeknights with the **best** dance music, from 7 to :click:
OK. Turn off the radios. Today's lesson is ready to start.
Now listen up, class. We're talking about a disease that can kill you.
But we already studied AIDS.
Do we have to hear this again?
The rising rates of teen S.T.D.'s* show that teens are not practicing "safe sex."
TEEN VD
*STD=Sexually Transmitted Disease (VD)
All right. I'll give you a chance to show me what you know.
Answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper.
1. How do people get AIDS?
2. How can you tell if someone has AIDS?
3. How can we stop AIDS?
SOON...
These questions are rough!
That's right.
Now let's study this video.
I'll be asking you some more questions after it's over.
AIDS

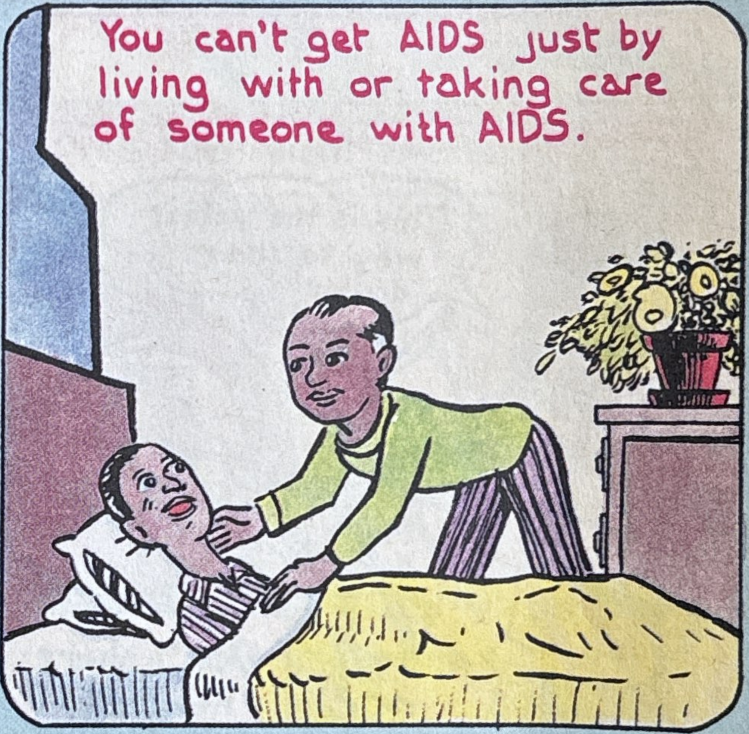

You can't get AIDS from a hug or a handshake.

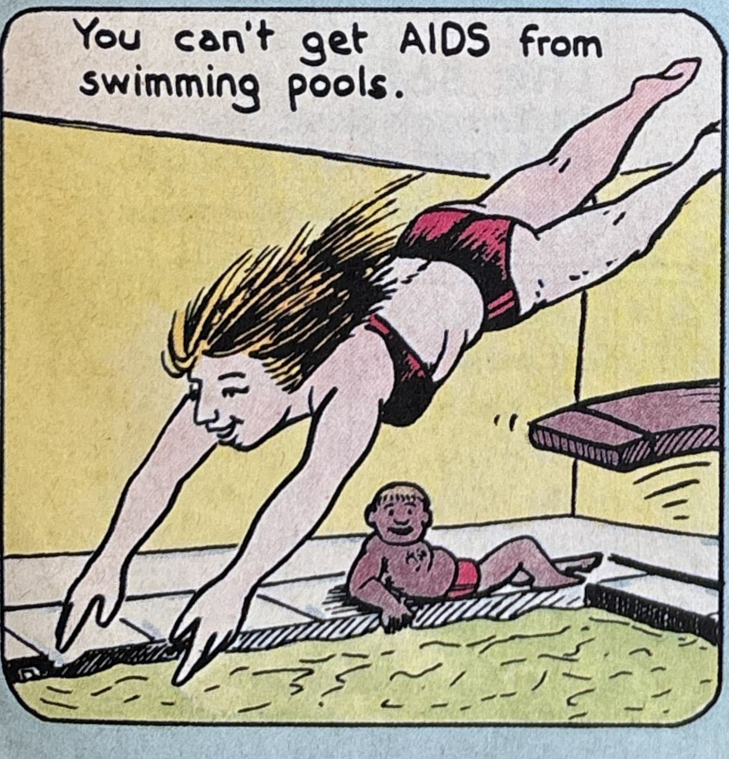
I've got AIDS.
That's terrible.

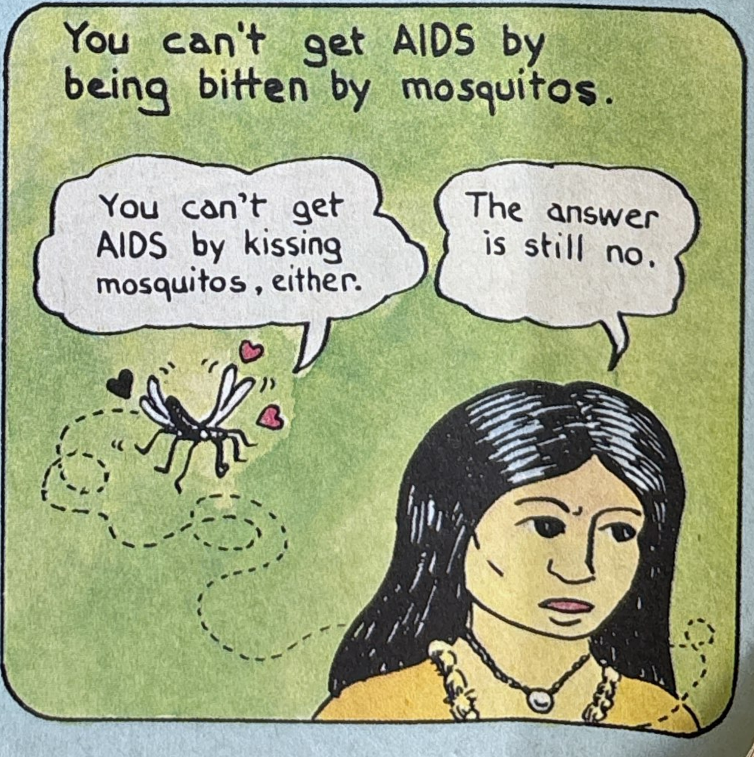

You can't get AIDS from coughs and sneezes and spit.

I know I can't get AIDS this way, but would you cover your mouth anyway?

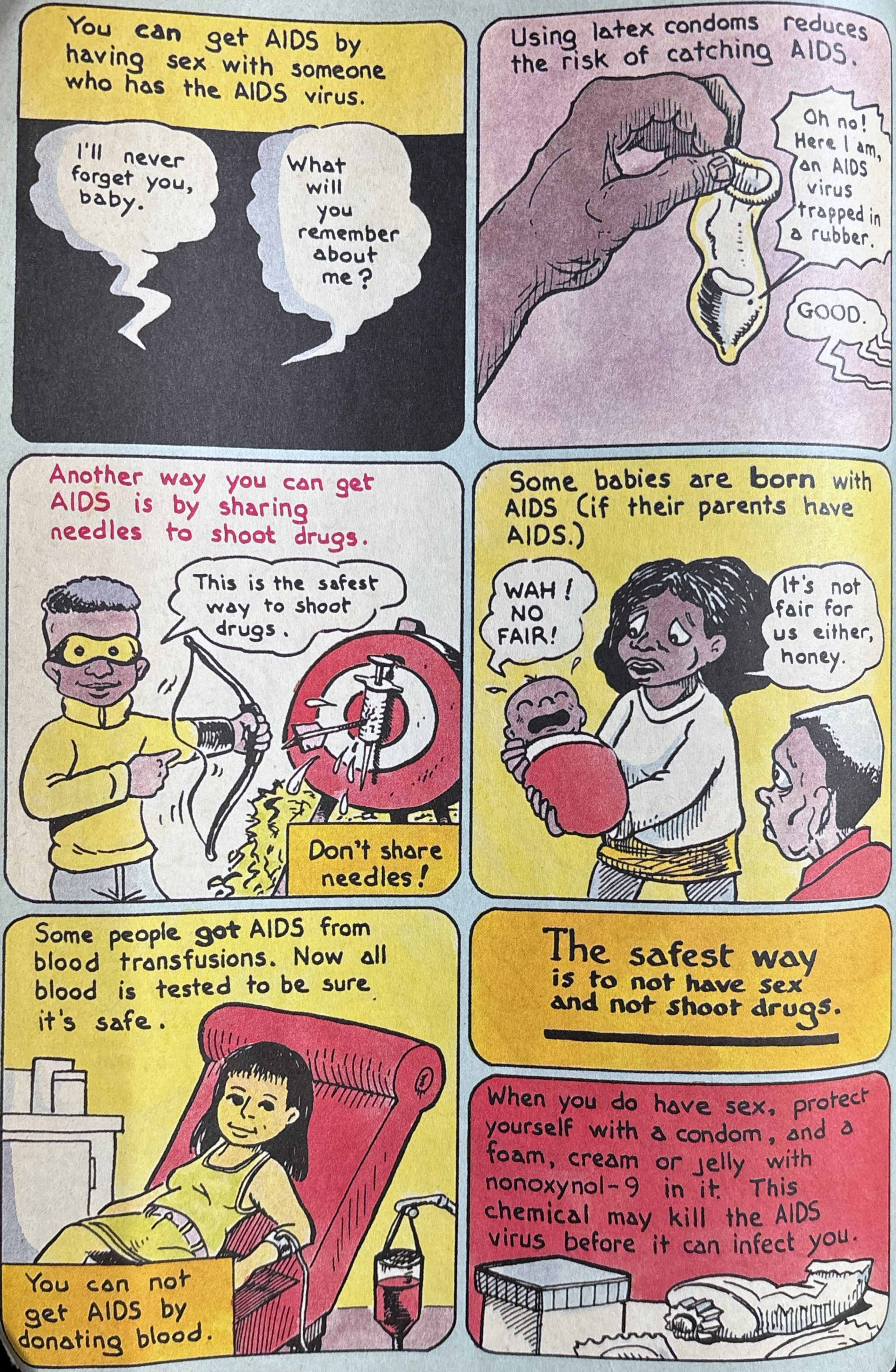

You can't get AIDS by eating food prepared by someone with AIDS.


You can't get AIDS just by living with or taking care of someone with AIDS.

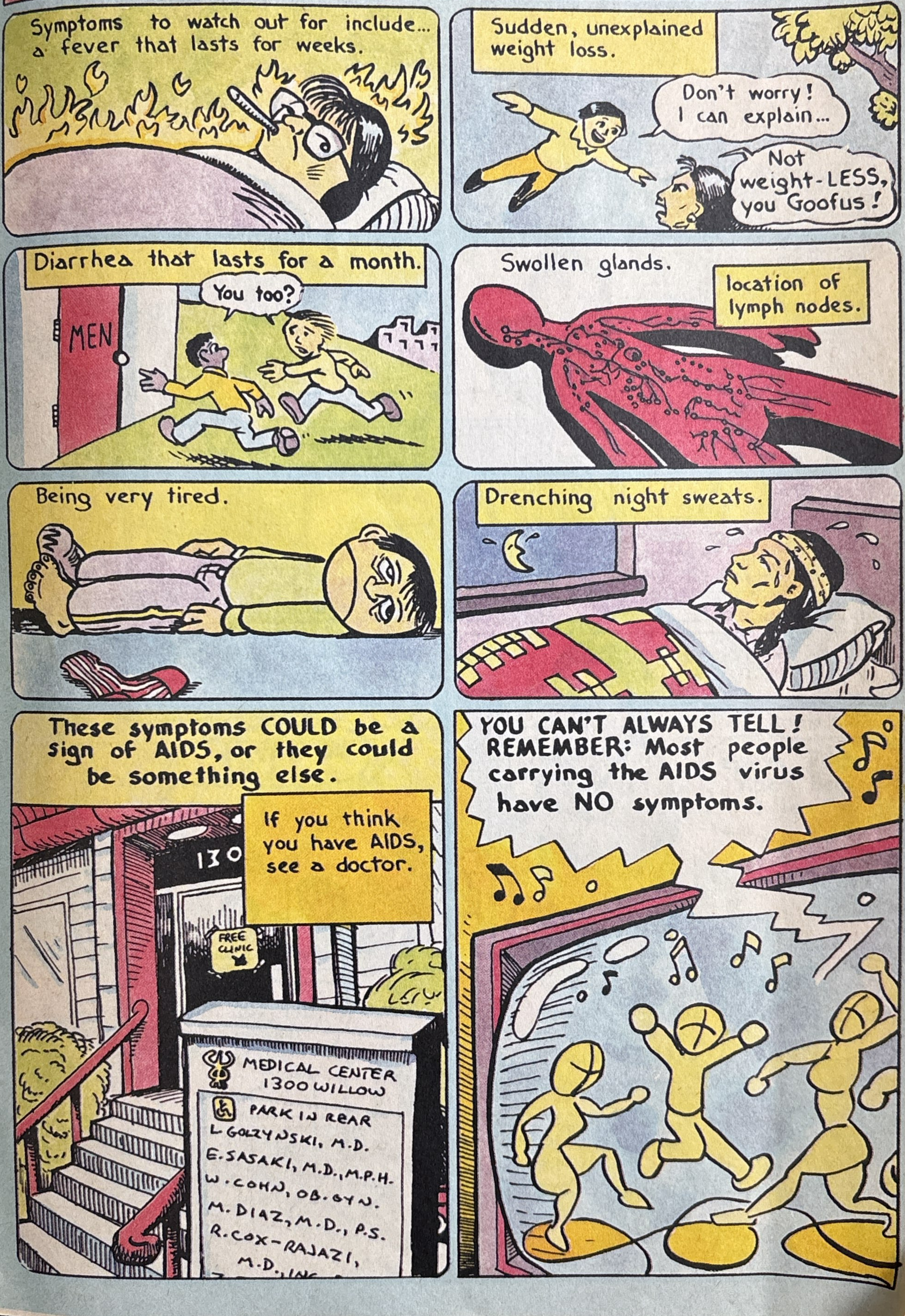

You can't get AIDS from swimming pools.


You can't get AIDS by being bitten by mosquitos.

You can't get AIDS by kissing mosquitos, either.
The answer is still no.


You can get AIDS by having sex with someone who has the AIDS virus.
I'll never forget you, baby.
What will you remember about me?
Using latex condoms reduces the risk of catching AIDS.
Oh no! Here I am, an AIDS virus trapped in a rubber.
GOOD.
Another way you can get AIDS is by sharing needles to shoot drugs.
This is the safest way to shoot drugs.
Don't share needles!
Some babies are born with AIDS (if their parents have AIDS.)
WAH! NO FAIR!
It's not fair for us either, honey.
Some people got AIDS from blood transfusions. Now all blood is tested to be sure it's safe.
You can not get AIDS by donating blood.
The safest way is to not have sex and not shoot drugs.
When you do have sex, protect yourself with a condom, and a foam, cream or jelly with nonoxynol-9 in it. This chemical may kill the AIDS virus before it can infect you.

SYMPTOMS of AIDS


Symptoms to watch out for include... a fever that lasts for weeks.
Sudden, unexplained weight loss.
Don't worry! I can explain...
Not weight-LESS, you Goofus!
Diarrhea that lasts for a month.
MEN
You too?
Swollen glands.
location of lymph nodes.
Being very tired.
Drenching night sweats.
These symptoms COULD be a sign of AIDS, or they could be something else.
If you think you have AIDS, see a doctor.
130
FREE CLINIC
MEDICAL CENTER 1300 WILLOW
PARK IN REAR
L. GOLZYNSKI, M.D.
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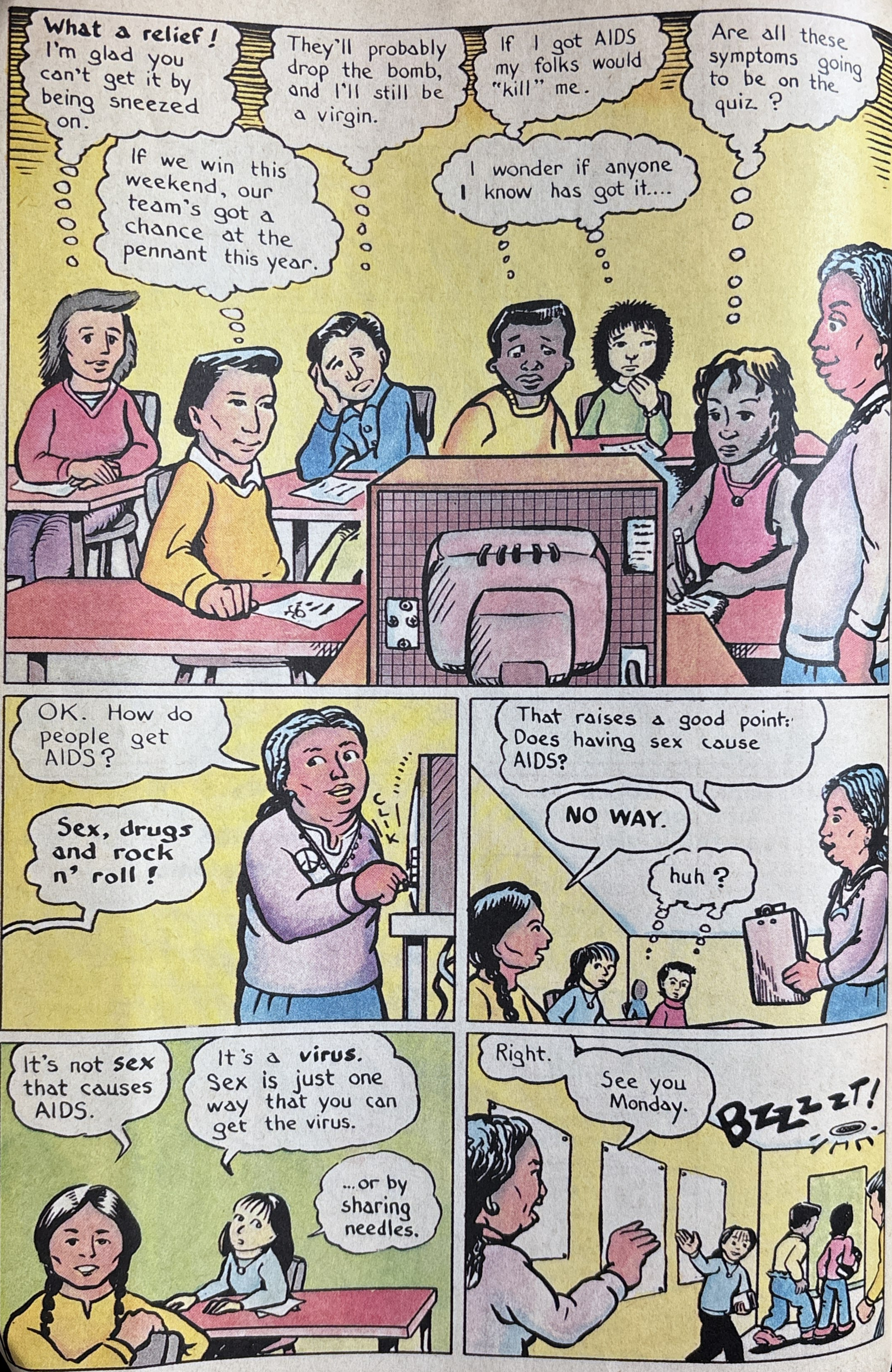
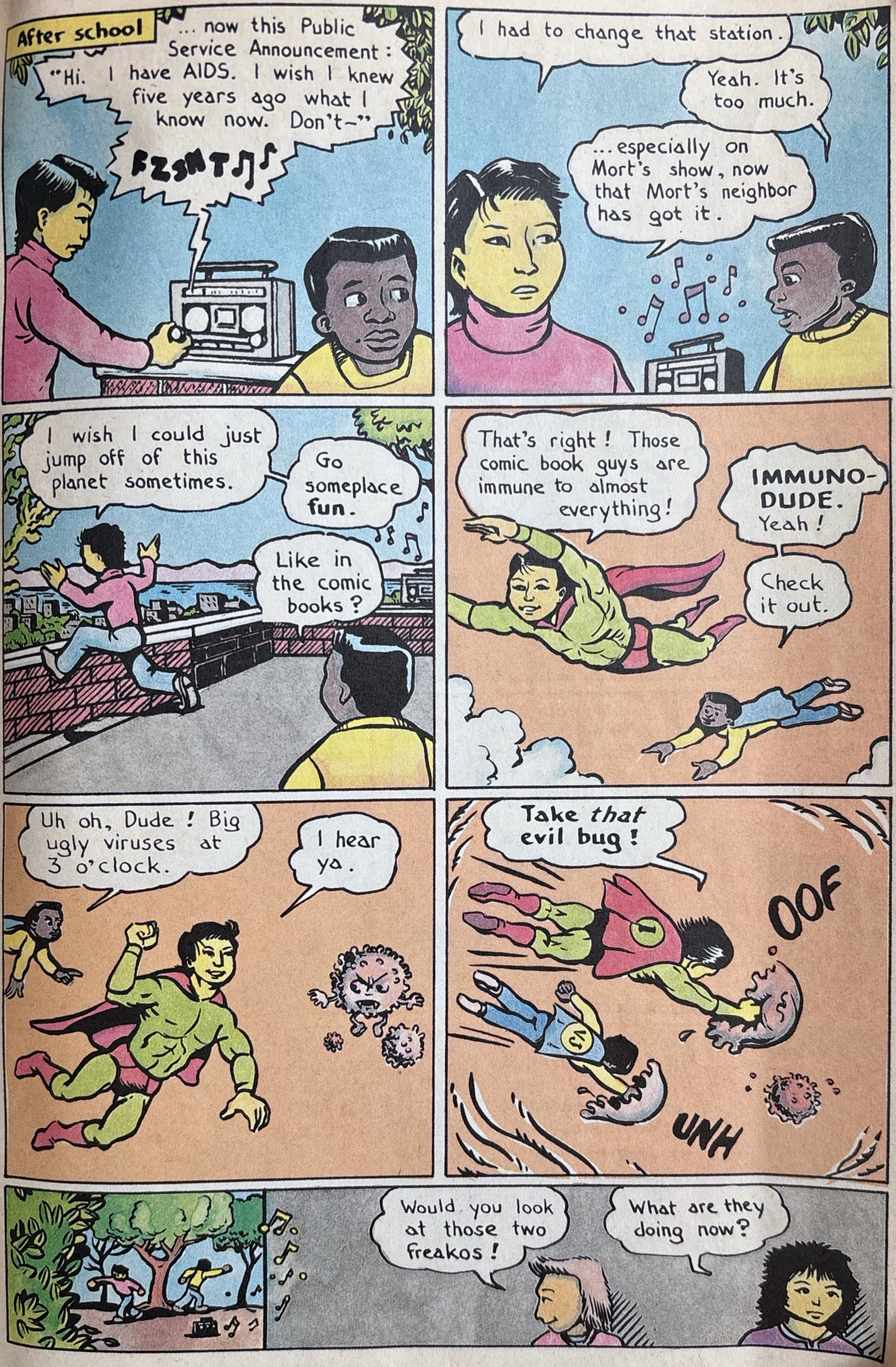
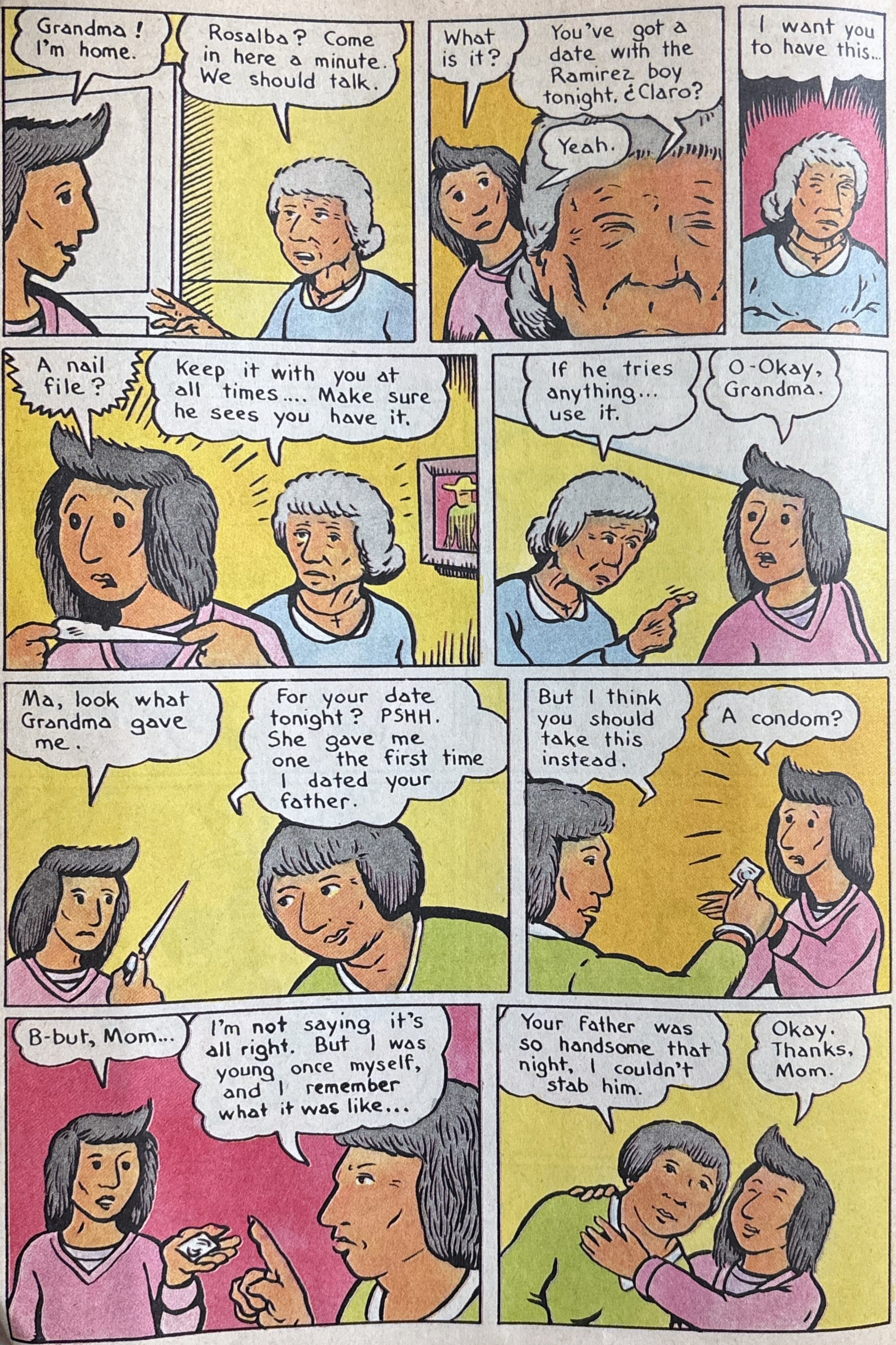
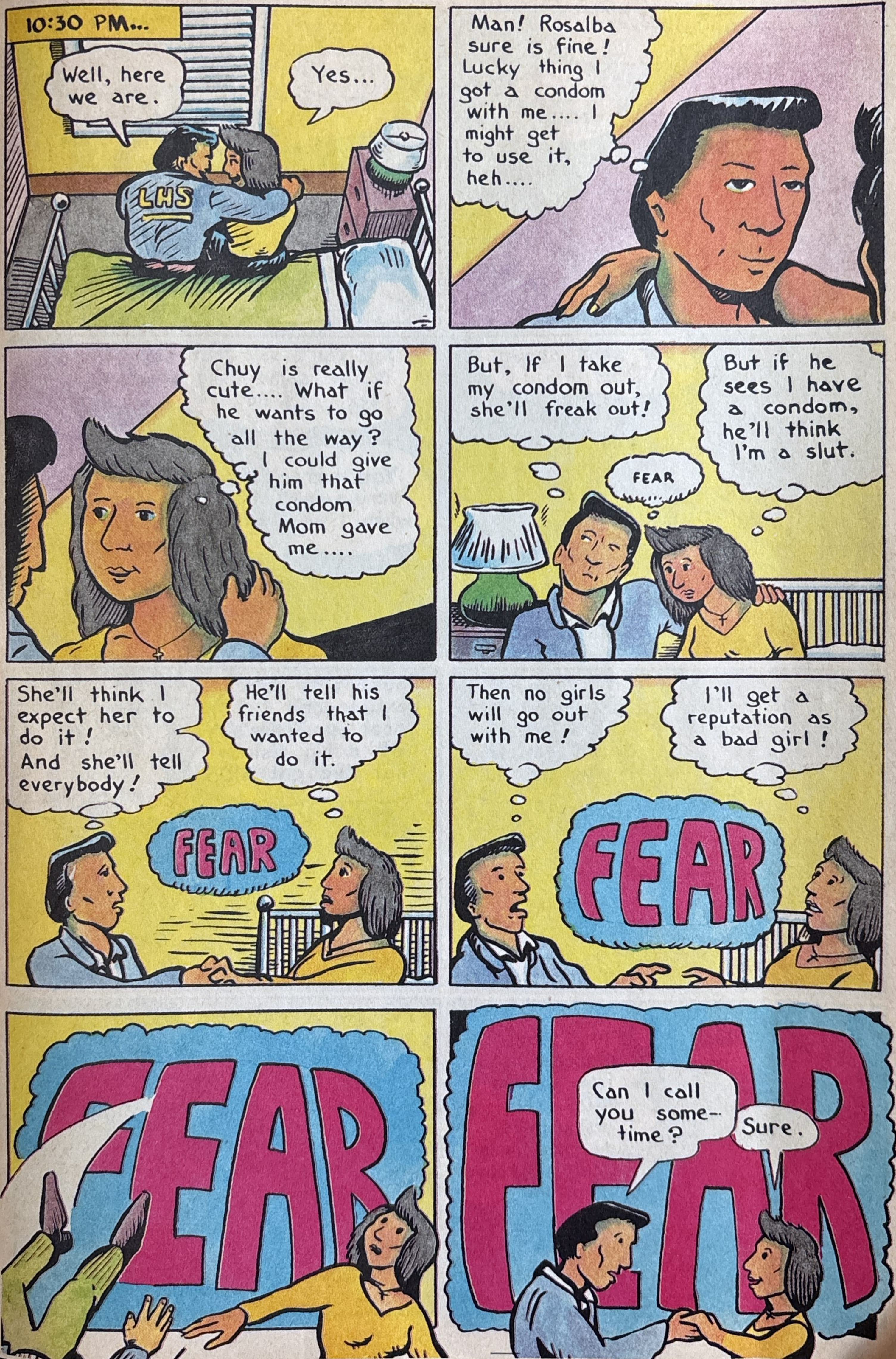
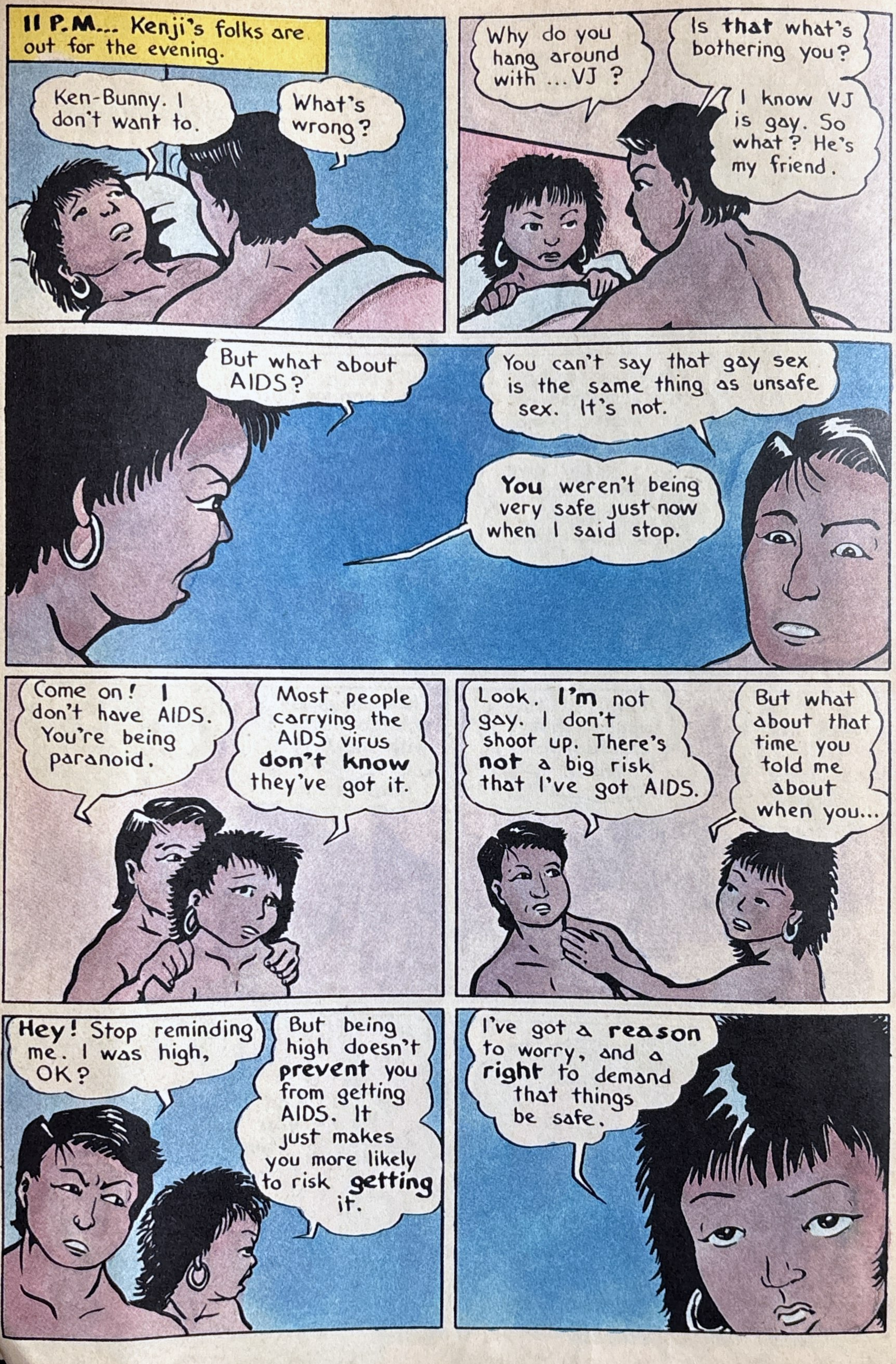
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS TELL! REMEMBER: Most people carrying the AIDS virus have NO symptoms.

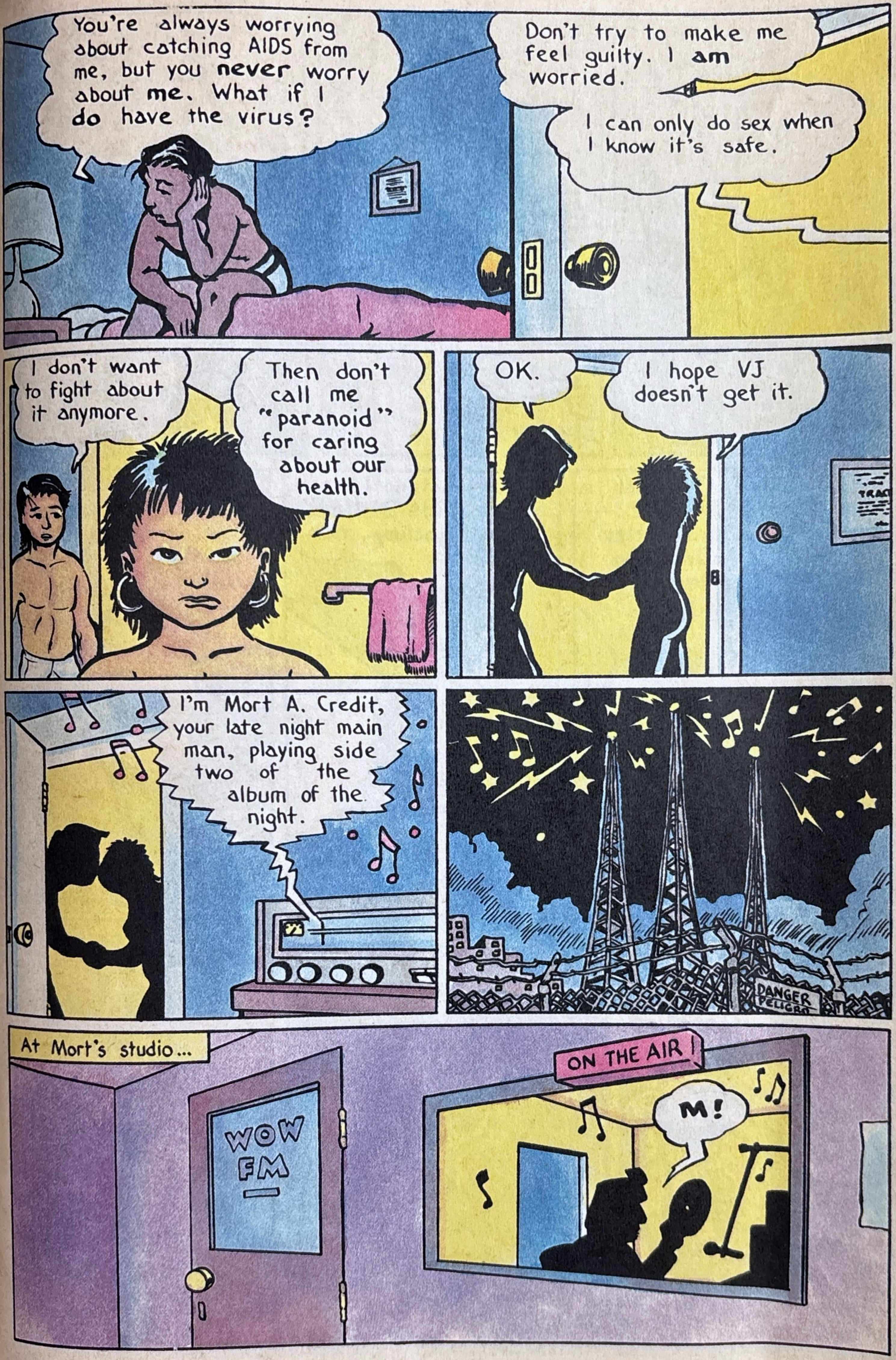

What a relief! I'm glad you can't get it by being sneezed on.
If we win this weekend, our team's got a chance at the pennant this year.
They'll probably drop the bomb, and I'll still be a virgin.
If I got AIDS my folks would "kill" me.
I wonder if anyone I know has got it....
Are all these symptoms going to be on the quiz?
OK. How do people get AIDS?
Sex, drugs and rock n' roll!
CLIK
That raises a good point: Does having sex cause AIDS?
NO WAY.
huh?
It's not sex that causes AIDS.
It's a virus. Sex is just one way that you can get the virus.
...or by sharing needles.
Right.
See you Monday.
BZZZZT!

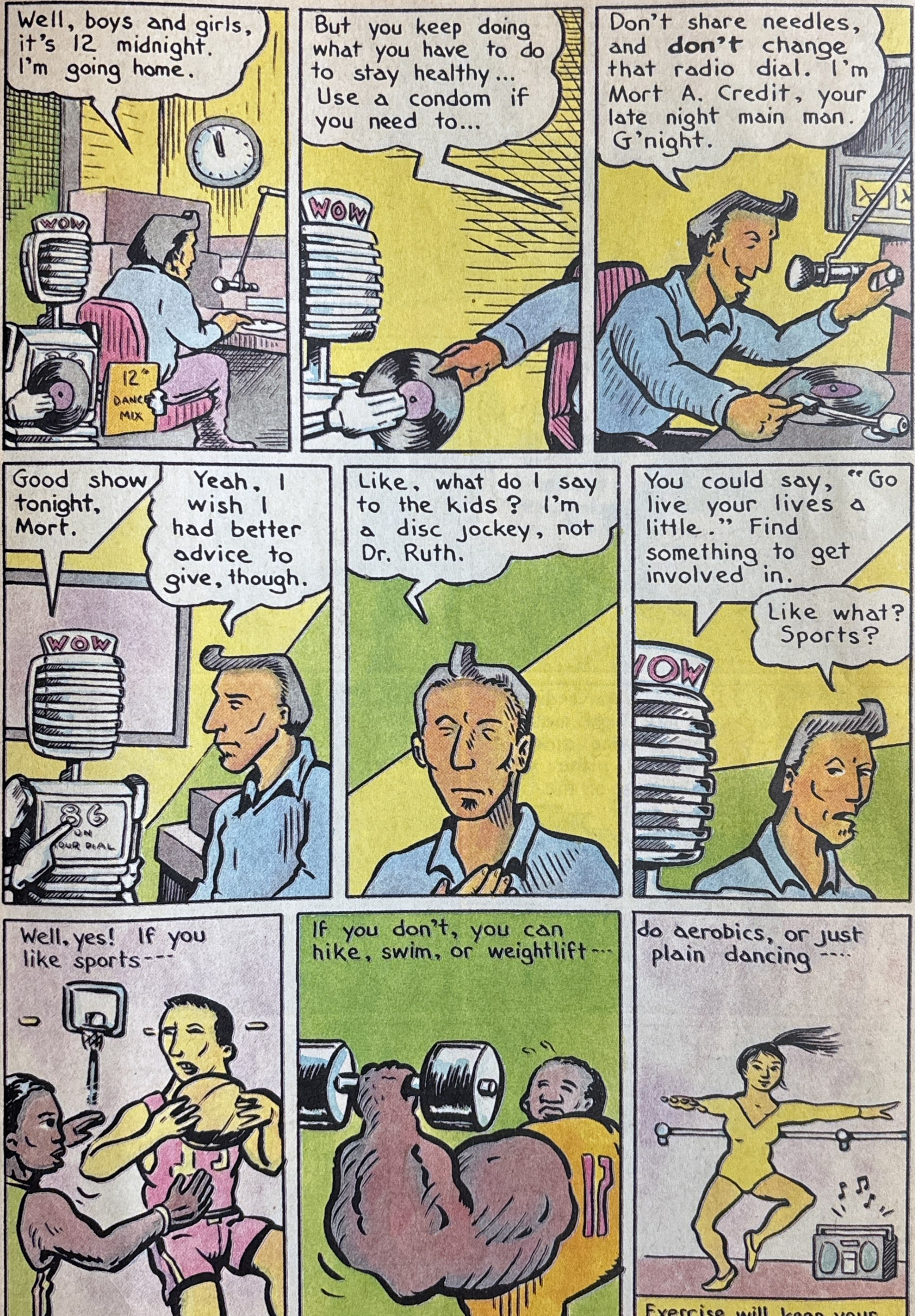

After school
... now this Public Service Announcement : "Hi. I have AIDS. I wish I knew five years ago what I know now. Don't–"
FZSHT
I had to change that station.
Yeah. It's too much.
... especially on Mort's show, now that Mort's neighbor has got it.
I wish I could just jump off of this planet sometimes.
Go someplace **fun**.
Like in the comic books?
That's right! Those comic book guys are immune to almost everything!
IMMUNO-DUDE. Yeah!
Check it out.
Uh oh, Dude! Big ugly viruses at 3 o'clock.
I hear ya.
Take *that* evil bug!
OOF
UNH
Would you look at those two freakos!
What are they doing now?

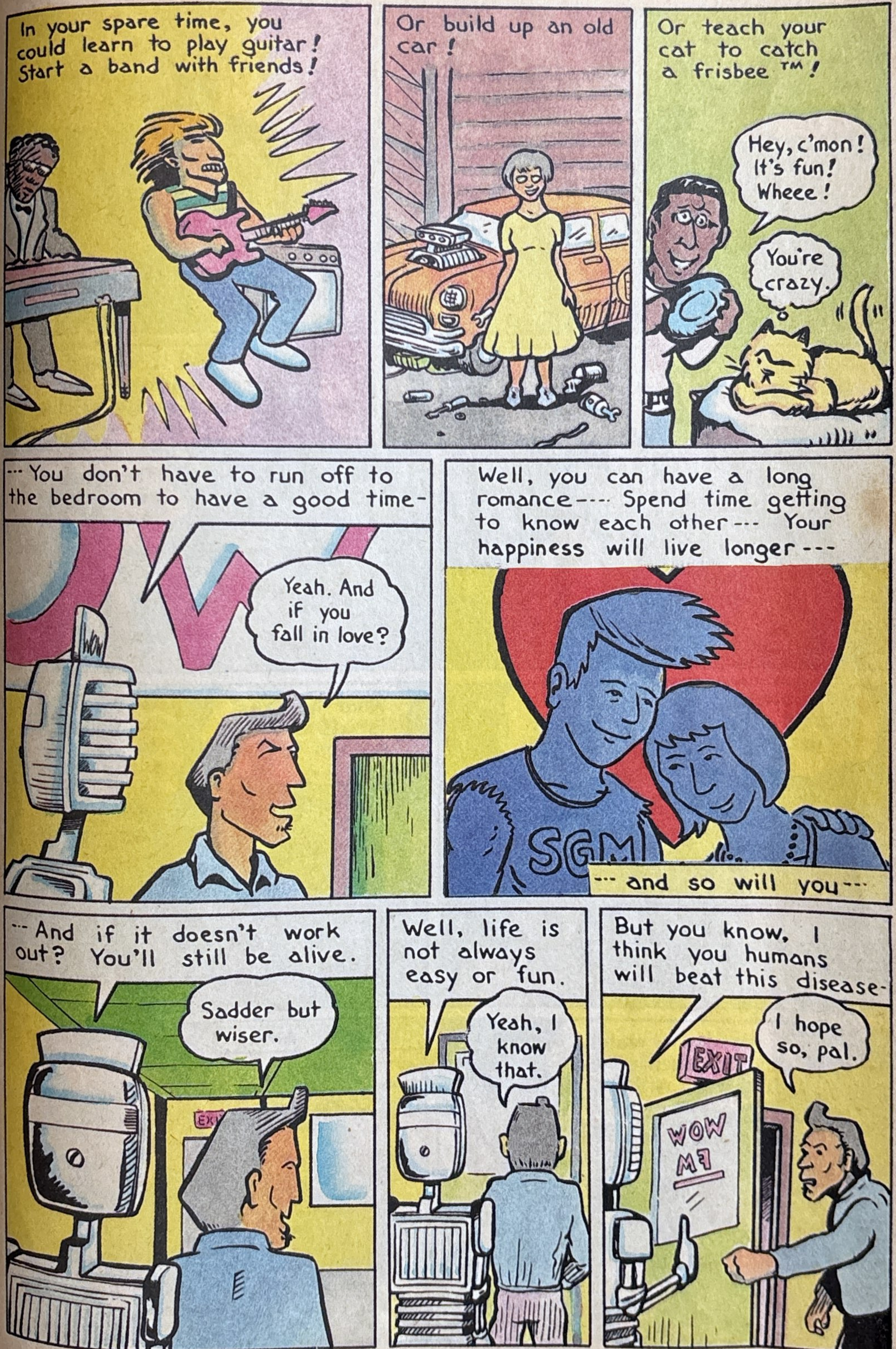

Grandma! I'm home.
Rosalba? Come in here a minute. We should talk.
What is it?
You've got a date with the Ramirez boy tonight, ¿Claro?
Yeah.
I want you to have this...
A nail file?
Keep it with you at all times.... Make sure he sees you have it.
If he tries anything... use it.
O-Okay, Grandma.
Ma, look what Grandma gave me.
For your date tonight? PSHH. She gave me one the first time I dated your father.
But I think you should take this instead.
A condom?
B-but, Mom...
I'm not saying it's all right. But I was young once myself, and I remember what it was like...
Your father was so handsome that night, I couldn't stab him.
Okay. Thanks, Mom.

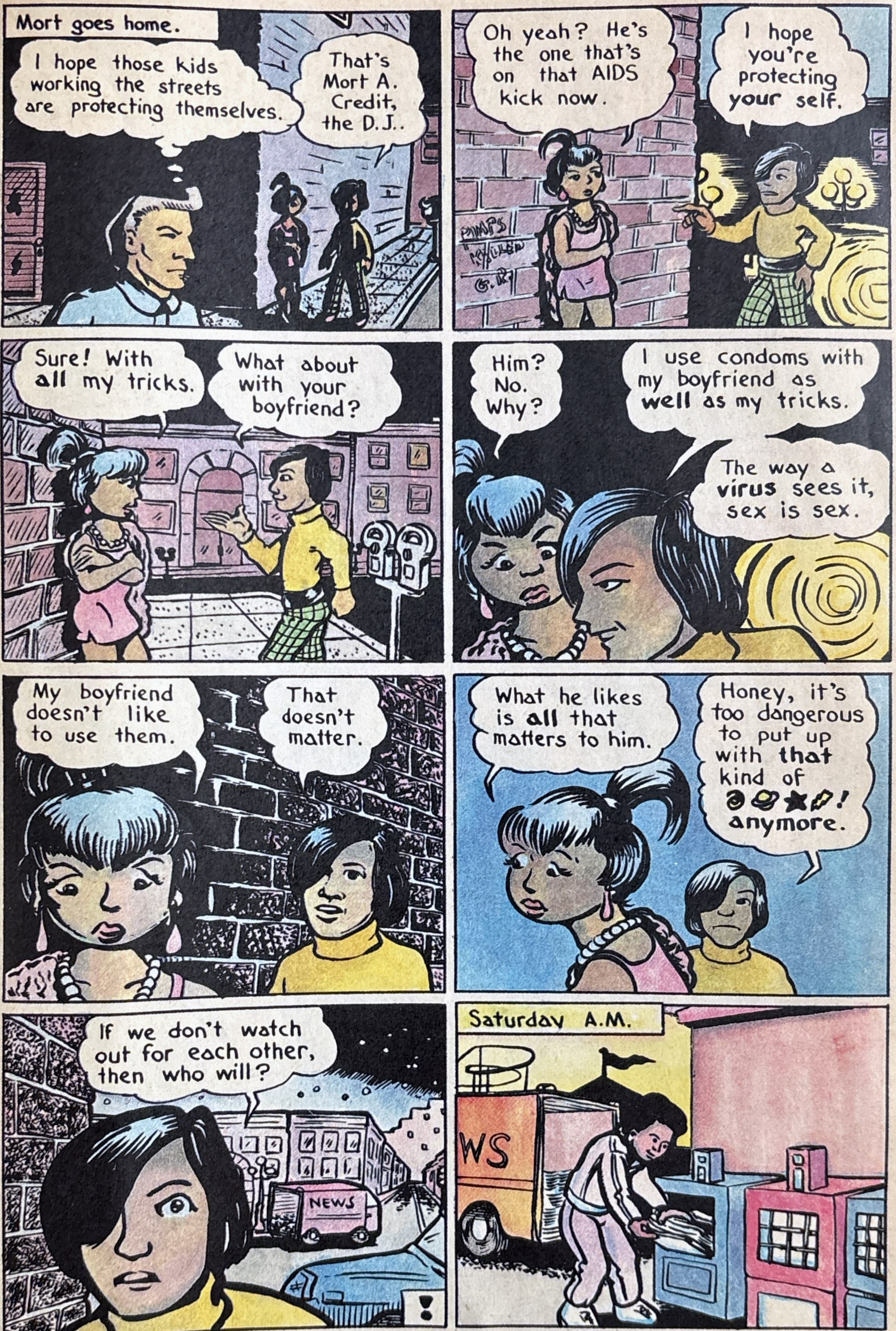

10:30 PM...
Well, here we are.
Yes...
Man! Rosalba sure is fine! Lucky thing I got a condom with me.... I might get to use it, heh....
Chuy is really cute.... What if he wants to go all the way? I could give him that condom Mom gave me....
But, If I take my condom out, she'll freak out!
FEAR
But if he sees I have a condom, he'll think I'm a slut.
She'll think I expect her to do it! And she'll tell everybody!
He'll tell his friends that I wanted to do it.
FEAR
Then no girls will go out with me!
I'll get a reputation as a bad girl!
FEAR
FEAR
FEAR
Can I call you some-time?
Sure.

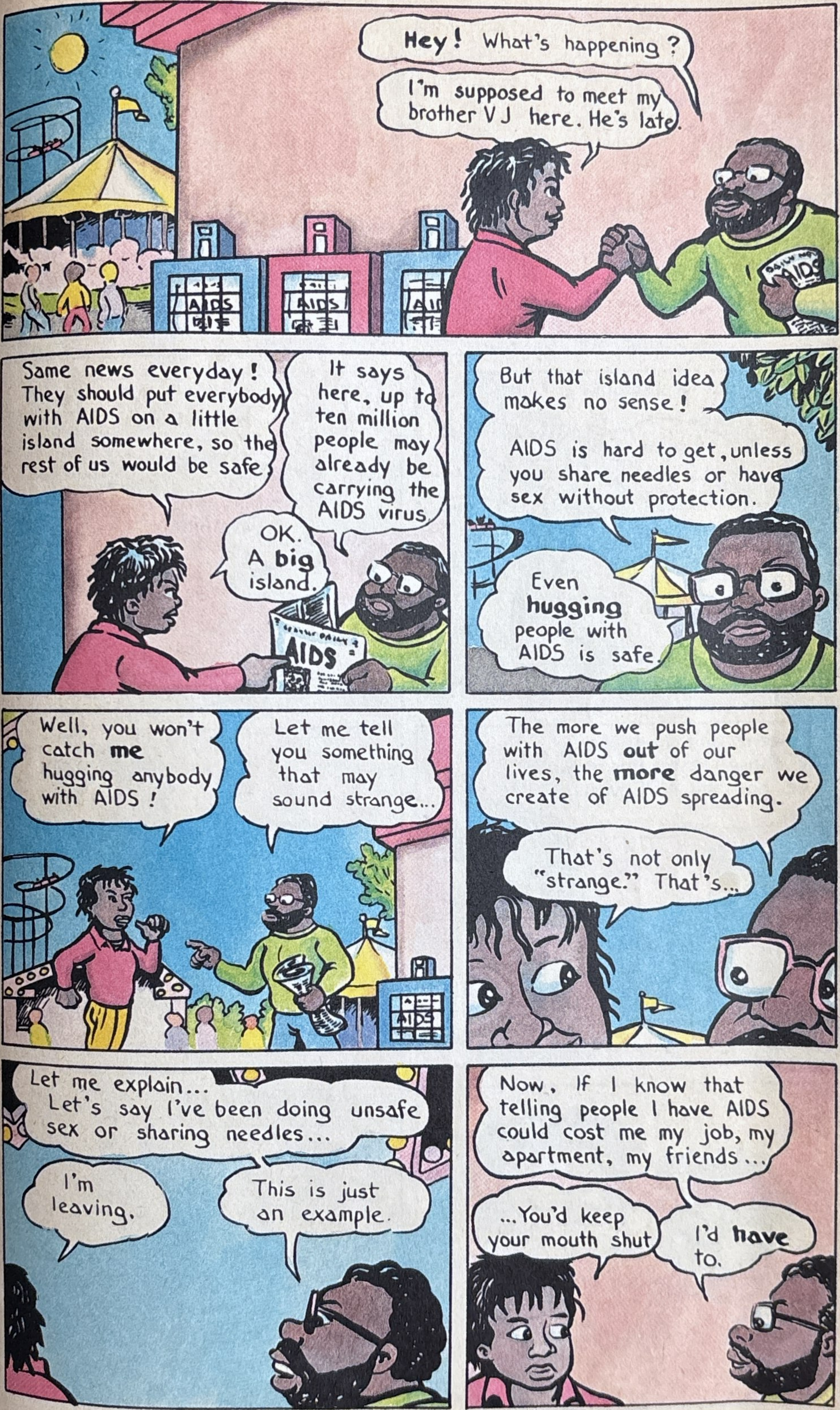

11 P.M... Kenji's folks are out for the evening.
Ken-Bunny. I don't want to.
What's wrong?
Why do you hang around with ... VJ ?
Is that what's bothering you?
I know VJ is gay. So what? He's my friend.
But what about AIDS?
You can't say that gay sex is the same thing as unsafe sex. It's not.
You weren't being very safe just now when I said stop.
Come on! I don't have AIDS. You're being paranoid.
Most people carrying the AIDS virus don't know they've got it.
Look. I'm not gay. I don't shoot up. There's not a big risk that I've got AIDS.
But what about that time you told me about when you...
Hey! Stop reminding me. I was high, OK?
But being high doesn't prevent you from getting AIDS. It just makes you more likely to risk getting it.
I've got a reason to worry, and a right to demand that things be safe.

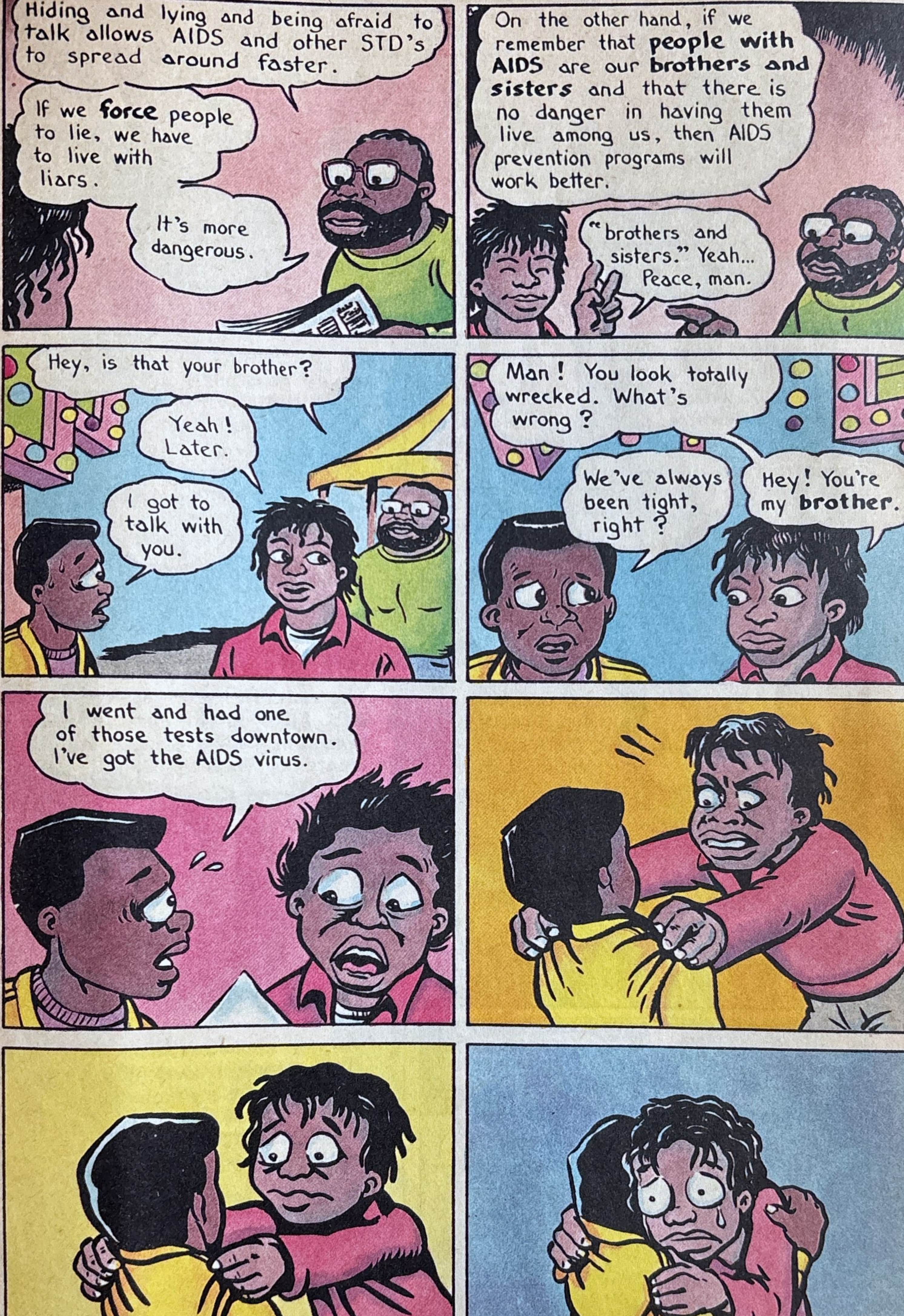

You're always worrying about catching AIDS from me, but you **never** worry about **me**. What if I **do** have the virus?
Don't try to make me feel guilty. I **am** worried.
I can only do sex when I know it's safe.
I don't want to fight about it anymore.
Then don't call me "paranoid" for caring about our health.
OK.
I hope VJ doesn't get it.
I'm Mort A. Credit, your late night main man, playing side two of the album of the night.
DANGER
PELIGRO
At Mort's studio...
WOW
FM
ON THE AIR!
M!


Well, boys and girls, it's 12 midnight. I'm going home.
WOW
12" DANCE MIX
But you keep doing what you have to do to stay healthy... Use a condom if you need to...
WOW
Don't share needles, and **don't** change that radio dial. I'm Mort A. Credit, your late night main man. G'night.
Good show tonight, Mort.
Yeah, I wish I had better advice to give, though.
WOW
86 ON YOUR DIAL
Like, what do I say to the kids? I'm a disc jockey, not Dr. Ruth.
You could say, "Go live your lives a little." Find something to get involved in.
Like what? Sports?
WOW
Well, yes! If you like sports---
If you don't, you can hike, swim, or weightlift---
17
do aerobics, or just plain dancing ----
Exercise will keep your immune system strong.

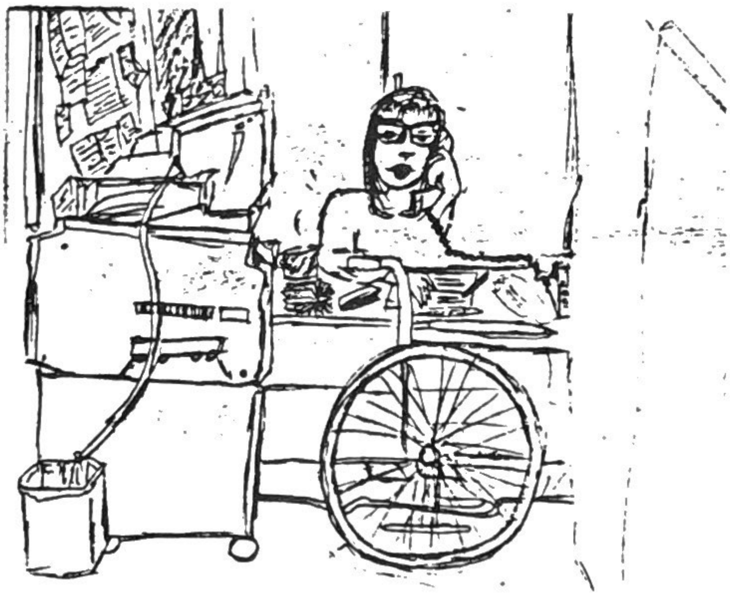

In your spare time, you could learn to play guitar! Start a band with friends!
Or build up an old car!
Or teach your cat to catch a frisbee ™!
Hey, c'mon! It's fun! Wheee!
You're crazy.
--- You don't have to run off to the bedroom to have a good time-
WOW
Yeah. And if you fall in love?
Well, you can have a long romance--- Spend time getting to know each other--- Your happiness will live longer---
SGM
--- and so will you---
--- And if it doesn't work out? You'll still be alive.
Sadder but wiser.
EXIT
Well, life is not always easy or fun.
Yeah, I know that.
But you know, I think you humans will beat this disease-
EXIT
I hope so, pal.
WOW FM


Mort goes home.
I hope those kids working the streets are protecting themselves.
That's Mort A. Credit, the D.J..
Oh yeah? He's the one that's on that AIDS kick now.
I hope you're protecting **your** self.
Sure! With **all** my tricks.
What about with your boyfriend?
Him? No. Why?
I use condoms with my boyfriend as **well** as my tricks.
The way a **virus** sees it, sex is sex.
My boyfriend doesn't like to use them.
That doesn't matter.
What he likes is **all** that matters to him.
Honey, it's too dangerous to put up with **that** kind of @🪐★⚡! **anymore.**
If we don't watch out for each other, then who will?
NEWS
Saturday A.M.
WS


Hey! What's happening?
I'm supposed to meet my brother V J here. He's late.
AIDS
AIDS
AIDS
Same news everyday! They should put everybody with AIDS on a little island somewhere, so the rest of us would be safe.
It says here, up to ten million people may already be carrying the AIDS virus.
OK. A **big** island.
AIDS
But that island idea makes no sense!
AIDS is hard to get, unless you share needles or have sex without protection.
Even **hugging** people with AIDS is safe.
Well, you won't catch **me** hugging anybody with AIDS!
Let me tell you something that may sound strange...
AIDS
The more we push people with AIDS **out** of our lives, the **more** danger we create of AIDS spreading.
That's not only "strange." That's...
Let me explain... Let's say I've been doing unsafe sex or sharing needles...
I'm leaving.
This is just an example.
Now, If I know that telling people I have AIDS could cost me my job, my apartment, my friends...
...You'd keep your mouth shut
I'd **have** to.


Hiding and lying and being afraid to talk allows AIDS and other STD's to spread around faster.
If we **force** people to lie, we have to live with liars.
It's more dangerous.
On the other hand, if we remember that **people with AIDS** are our **brothers and sisters** and that there is no danger in having them live among us, then AIDS prevention programs will work better.
"brothers and sisters." Yeah... Peace, man.
Hey, is that your brother?
Yeah! Later.
I got to talk with you.
Man! You look totally wrecked. What's wrong?
We've always been tight, right?
Hey! You're my **brother**.
I went and had one of those tests downtown. I've got the AIDS virus.

for more information call...



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1818 E. Madison
Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 329-6963 *

* TTY/V

WASHINGTON STATE AIDS HOTLINE
1-800-272-AIDS *

NATIONAL AIDS HOTLINE
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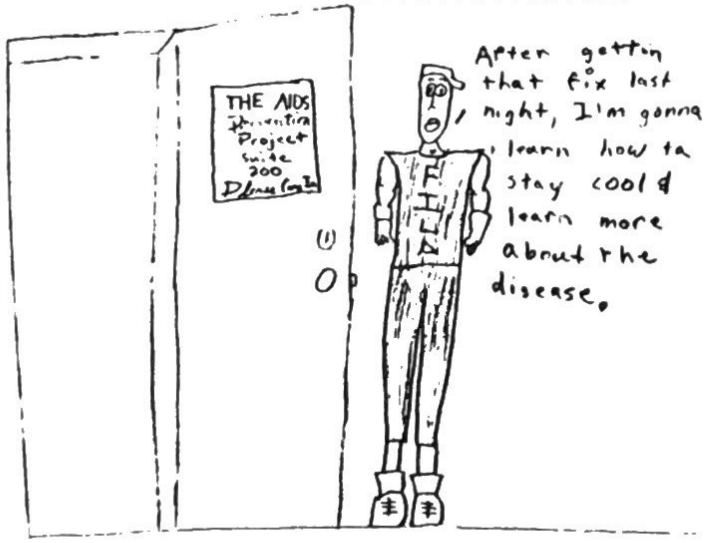
THE AIDS Prevention Project Suite 200
FIUA
After gettin that fix last night, I'm gonna learn how ta stay cool & learn more about the disease.

SEATTLE / KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AIDS PREVENTION PROJECT
1116 Summit
Seattle, WA 98101
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ASSOCIATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH ADVOCATES
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box 1002
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(206) 328-5996

GAY / LESBIAN ADOLESCENT DROP-IN GROUP
16150 NE 8th
Bellevue, WA 98008
(206) 747-4937

REMEMBER:

You can get the AIDS virus by:

- Having unprotected sex (without a latex condom) with someone who has the virus.
- Sharing needles to shoot drugs.

The virus can also be passed by a mother who's infected to her unborn child.

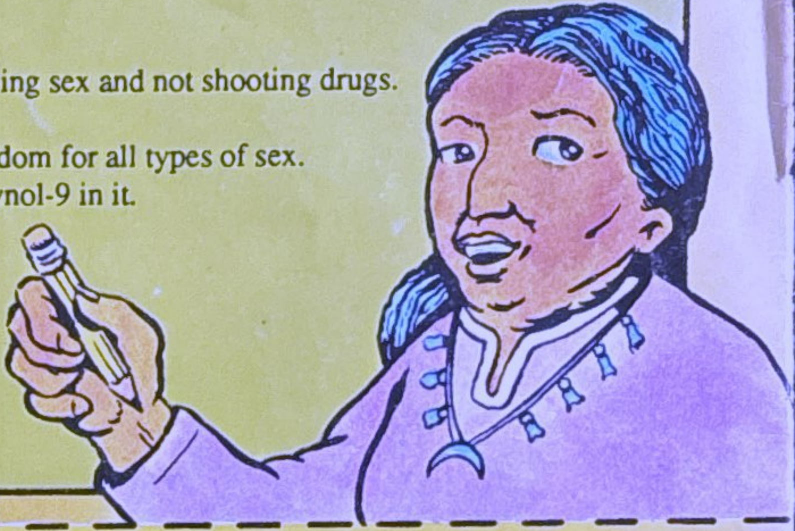
You can have the virus and not have symptoms (signs of the disease). There is no special kind of person who gets AIDS. If you have unprotected sex, multiple sex partners, and / or share needles, you could be at risk for AIDS.

AIDS is **not** casually transmitted:

- You **cannot** get AIDS from sitting on a toilet seat.
- You **cannot** get AIDS from eating food prepared by someone who has AIDS.
- You **cannot** get AIDS from holding, hugging, or touching a person with AIDS.

You can be safer:

- The best protection from AIDS is not having sex and not shooting drugs.
- If you are sexually active, use a latex condom for all types of sex.
  Also use foam, cream or jelly with nonoxynol-9 in it.
- Don't share needles.



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# of Comics	Price	Shipping & Handling (Outside WA State only)	Shipping & Handling (Washington State only)
10	2.50	2.50	2.50
50	12.50	3.00	2.50
100	25.00	4.00	2.50
200	50.00	6.00	2.50
300	75.00	8.00	4.00
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Please remit full amount with order. TOTAL $________________

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